



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

04-258

Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2004
District: 08 – San Bernardino & Riverside Counties
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WHAT: DRIVING ON ICE

WHEN: DURING WINTER MONTHS

WHERE: RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

Recent storms in Riverside and San Bernardino counties have brought a large amount of snow that has started to melt. Caltrans is advising motorists that this snow will thaw and turn into ice on the roadways when temperatures drop from evening to morning hours. Caltrans crews work continuously day and night using de-icing agents to keep the roadways clear for travelers.

Your safety is our concern and we have compiled some driving tips for ice conditions below:

- **Distance Factor** – The distance needed to stop on ice is twice as long as you would need to normally brake. Keep three car distances from the vehicle in front of you.
- **Black Ice** – Ice that remains on the roadway that is not subject to direct sunlight. Be careful when driving into shady areas and cautiously slow your vehicle on approach.
- **Extra Slippery Areas** – Can be found on bridges, overpasses and tunnels. Cautiously slow down before you approach these areas.
- **Handling Skids** – It is possible to steer out of a skid!
 - Front Wheel Drive** – When your car begins to slide, slowly remove your foot from the accelerator, until you feel your wheels regain traction – do not brake! As your tires grab the road, slowly turn the steering wheel in the direction you want your front wheels to go.
 - Rear Wheel Drive** – When you start to spin, remove your foot from the gas pedal. Slowly steer in the direction you want the car to go. If you are still skidding, counter-steer until your vehicle is pointing in the right direction. Never apply steady pressure to the brakes.
- **Clear Your Visibility** – Insure that you can see out all windows on your car when you drive.
- Use your low beams when driving in ice or snowstorms.
- When driving uphill – pick a path that will allow the most traction. Watch carefully for other drivers and leave yourself an “out”.

****MORE****





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- Reduce your speed before you approach a turn – avoid sudden acceleration or deceleration.
- NEVER brake suddenly while driving on ice – lightly brake before your approach.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good running condition and that your tires have good tread and are properly inflated.
- Travel gently – move slowly, turn slowly, brake slowly – sudden changes can cause a skid.

Please remember to be courteous to other drivers and be aware of driving conditions before you make your trip. Chains may be required in mountain areas so plan ahead. You may call our office Monday through Friday (7am – 5pm) at (909) 383-4631 for assistance. You may also view our website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist8 for press releases and road conditions.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while Caltrans maintenance crews continue to keep the roads clear and please remember to ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***

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